

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING NOTES¹

Friday, January 21, 2005

**Casa Las Palmas
323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. • Santa Barbara, CA**

Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Russell Galipeau
Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell
Alternate John Luzader

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate John Ugoretz

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]
Alternate Jackie Campbell

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Lauri Baker

Non-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Member Warren Glaser
Alternate Scott Dunn

CONSERVATION

Alternate Greg Helms

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Alternate Jim Marshall

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Member Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor
Alternate Barbara LaCorte

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-1

Member Jim Knowlton

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-2

Member Eric Kett [SAC Secretary]
Alternate Matt Lum

CHUMASH COMMUNITY

Member Ricardo Melendez

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Chris Mobley, Manager

¹ Adopted by the Sanctuary Advisory Council on March 18, 2005.

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Lyle Enriquez

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Joan Barminski
Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Alternate Leah Akins

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth
Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Alternate Monica Baker

BUSINESS

Member Bill Spicer
Alternate Bill Agosta

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop [SAC Vice-Chair]

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Member Chris Hoeflinger

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Alternate Steve Roberson

RESEARCH

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-1

Alternate Phyllis Grifman

CHUMASH COMMUNITY

Alternate Paulette Cabugos

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Member Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent
Alternate Sean Morton, Management Plan
Coordinator

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown, Manager

Attendance

Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) attendance was good, with 17 of 21 voting seats represented. Voting seats absent for the day were California Coastal Commission, Business, Minerals Management Service and NOAA Fisheries. Public attendance peaked at approximately twelve individuals.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Diane Meester served as Acting Chair presiding over the meeting until elections for a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary were held later in the day. Dianne acknowledged new SAC representatives, selected from a pool of over 48 applicants: Jim Marshall (Commercial Fishing Alternate), Warren Glaser (Non-consumptive Recreation Member), Scott Dunn (Non-consumptive Recreation Alternate), Chris Hoeflinger (was Commercial Fishing Alternate and was appointed Commercial Fishing Member), Eric Kett (was Non-consumptive Recreation alternate and was appointed Public-at Large Member), Dan Brumbaugh (was reappointed as Research Alternate) and Linda Krop (was reappointed as Conservation Member). Diane announced that two agency seats made changes: Lyle Enriquez has replaced Tonya Wick as the NOAA Fisheries Alternate, and Leah Akins has replaced Mellissa Miller-Henson as California Resources Agency Alternate

September and November 2004 meeting notes were approved and adopted as final.

Chris Mobley spoke briefly about several highlights that appear in the Sanctuary Manager's Report, including:

- Anna Chouteau has been hired by the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation as the Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary Coordinator;
- Highlights from the recent National Marine Sanctuary Program Leadership Team meeting held in San Francisco;
- Sanctuary staff work with UCSB to develop a marine science building for broad community ocean science/management education that will include a classroom, wet lab, visitor center and offices for Sanctuary staff;
- Maritime Heritage Resource Coordinator Bob Schwemmer's participation in and research during the York, England Historical Archaeology conference; and,
- A White abalone restoration project the Sanctuary is conducting in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and NOAA fisheries to aid in recovery of white abalone.

Council Member Announcements

Brian Baird summarized California Resources Agency and Governor Schwarzenegger's recent work on ocean policy, including development of the California Ocean Action Plan, commenting on the Bush Administration's response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Ocean Commission reports, development of California Ocean Management Council, and resurrection of the California Marine Life Protection Act.

Eric Kett and Matt Lum indicated that winter is an equally wonderful experience at the islands and noted numerous waterfalls at Santa Cruz Island now since the rains. Eric also raised concern about the debris washing offshore following the recent rains and suggested the possibility of the SAC focusing on stream cleanup support in 2005.

Russel Galipeau reminded the group that this is the 25th anniversary of the park and sanctuary, celebrations of which began with the From Shore to Sea lecture, now held in both Ventura and Santa Barbara. Russel also explained damages to park wildlife due to recent unidentified oil sources.

Greg Helms announced that the Environmental Defense Center lost a staff member due to an accident caused by La Conchita traffic. Greg explained that for this reason the Conservation Working Group did not host its recent planned meeting that will be rescheduled.

Scott Dunn acknowledged that the Non-consumptive Recreation seat is new and solicited help for him and Warren in assessing who their constituency is.

Gary Davis announced that he has been working on President Bush's Ocean Action Plan. Gary explained that it is important to recognize that: California and Channel Islands are both leaders in ocean management. Gary added that President Bush wants to expand the partnership between parks and sanctuaries, largely developed at Channel Islands which serves as a model.

Ricardo Melendez expressed condolences to the Environmental Defense Center and acknowledged the park and sanctuary for their partnership and work with the Chumash community.

John Luzader discussed knowledge to date on oiled birds and explained that the US Coast Guard investigated recent reports that Platform Holly may be leaking and determined that the suspect oil sheen surrounding the platform originated from natural oil seeps and not the platform.

Lauri Baker offered that the Santa Barbara Business Bureau is willing to work with Chris LaFranchi to aid in getting data and a workspace for his project.

John Ugoretz announced that this will be his last meeting. John also provided updates on the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), outlining recent and upcoming meetings, and explaining that a Master Plan Framework will be brought to a joint meeting of the Fish and Game Commission and MLPA Task Force. John also announced that the Department of Fish and Game has restructured enforcement again in order to adjust for imbalances in field positions; hence they no longer have a dedicated marine enforcement branch but rather a regional enforcement structure. Lastly, John explained that Fish and Game is working with the community to get comments from fishermen and others before developing the next phase of a marine reserves monitoring plan.

Bob Warner announced that there are some opportunities for the Research Activities Panel to play role in reviewing marine reserves monitoring information being gathered annually by the Department of Fish and Game. He indicated that the most venerable target is the ocean observing system.

Jim Knowlton announced that for the 25th anniversary celebration of the park and sanctuary the Ventura Museum of Art is seeking 25 artists to travel to the islands and create new art. The deadline for submitting 5 images is the end of this month. For more information and an application go to www.venturamuseum.org.

Merit McCrea indicated his concern that since the recent storms there seems to have been major opportunistic construction: people digging arroyos and placing boulders, and possible release of oil into streams. John Ugoretz responded that there was a lot of emergency permitting happening and indicated that if anyone sees something they are concerned about and that may be illegal they should contact the Department of Fish and Game. Diane Meester added that if anyone sees debris material being placed in an area that doesn't seem logical they should call the Santa Barbara County Planning Department.

Diane Meester reported on several recent Santa Barbara County Planning Department projects, including assessing 36 undeveloped oil and gas leases, all of which feed from platforms from which oil will be landed in Santa Barbara County. Diane also announced that Tom Rogers of Santa Barbara County passed away earlier this week and encouraged others to attend a vigil and ceremonies.

Informational Presentation: Study of Nonconsumptive Uses of California's National Marine Sanctuaries (Chris LaFranchi)

Chris LaFranchi explained that along with Linwood Pendleton and Bob Leeworthy he is leading a study of non-consumptive uses in the Sanctuary. According to Chris, the main project goal for the next year is to: focus energy on establishing a method and mode for collecting non-consumptive use baseline data (e.g., data on divers, surfers, sailors, etc.), and to focus on use by private boat access because much of the current data focuses on the charter industry.

Chris explained that other project goals include: setting up a method of collecting information in formats useable for a wide audience; and creating a spatial inventory and correlating sanctuary attributes with various types of uses. Chris commented that based on available funding and the results of the pilot study the project will determine methodology for a larger scale study. The pilot study, Chris explained, will include surveys in which users are asked: 1) where they go/what they do, 2) what they spend money on (what contributes to local economy?), and 3) their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the Sanctuary. Chris also explained that data will be used to start answering management questions, for example, questions about the marine reserves and MLPA processes.

SAC members asked a variety of questions, with more than one member pointing out that the study should be careful about the fact that many users in the Sanctuary are both consumptive and non-consumptive.

Public Comment

Shiva Polefka, a member of the Conservation Working Group, reported on work he and Sara Polgar are conducting on a sanctuary water quality needs assessment. Shiva indicated that he is looking forward to working more with Donna Meyers in the future.

Informational Presentation: Water Quality Program Development for West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries (Donna Meyers)

Donna Myers explained that her position as West Coast Regional Water Quality Coordinator is a new position, providing water quality coordination to all five west coast sanctuaries. Her focus is to identify issues, data gaps, and program needs, using existing models; as well as to build a long-term regional program with all sites coordinated through regional products and programs. Donna indicated that SAC participation is very important to this work in helping the Sanctuary understand the issues, helping the public know and understand issues, and providing a mechanism for the public to bring things to the table. Donna indicated that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program is a successful model. Donna explained that she has read about water quality research and work conducted by the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), CINMS staff and interns.

In terms of moving forward and work ahead Donna explained that CINMS needs-issue identification, program planning and development. Donna indicated that west coast national marine sanctuaries need to work together regionally to identify common needs, products, data sharing possibilities, and work on a regional monitoring and assessment program.

Donna indicated that she would like to form a staff-level water quality group that meets annually. Donna's PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Administrative Business (continued)

Council Elections

SAC members elected Diane Meester as their new Chair, Linda Krop as Vice-Chair, and Eric Kett as Secretary. Mike noted that while she was not able to attend this meeting, Linda communicated that she would accept nominations for Vice Chair or Secretary, but not Chair.

[Note: from this point forward newly elected SAC Secretary Eric Kett served as Acting Chair of the meeting]

Recognition of Departing Council Members and Other Acknowledgements

Chris Mobley recognized departing SAC representatives with framed original photographs by SAC member Jim Knowlton, each with an inscription from Sanctuary staff. Outgoing SAC representatives who served three-year terms included: Harry Liquornik, Avie Guerra, Michael Hanrahan, John Ugoretz, and Melissa Miller-Hensen. Outgoing SAC representatives former Chair Matt Cahn and former Vice Chair Jim Brye were given special recognition for their contributions as six-year veterans of the Advisory

Council. Chris also acknowledged the contributions of Conservation Working Group interns Sara Polgar and Shiva Polefka who have made significant contributions to Sanctuary projects over the last two years, Sara Polgar as the lead in developing a water quality needs assessment for the Sanctuary, and Shiva Polefka as the primary author of the marine acoustics report entitled, "Anthropogenic Noise and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: How Noise Affects Sanctuary Resources and What We Can do About It." Sara and Shiva each received framed posters of the Sanctuary featuring an aerial photograph of the four northern Channel Islands by William B. Dewey.

Larry Chiang, a former Sanctuary intern and UCSB Bren School Graduate student who unexpectedly passed away last year, was also honored at the meeting. Chris Mobley, Sanctuary Manager, presented Larry's colleagues with a poster featuring William B. Dewey's beautiful aerial image of the Sanctuary and an engraved plaque in appreciation of Larry's contributions to the Sanctuary.

Larry Chiang and his colleagues Adina Abeles, Kevin Afflerbaugh, Matt Stadler, and Ben Pitterle from UCSB's Bren School, provided the Sanctuary, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans with invaluable help. Their group project was entitled, "Evaluation and Augmentation of the Shallow Subtidal Monitoring Plan for the CINMS". They also provided generous assistance in hosting a marine reserve monitoring workshop in 2003. Larry's dedication and kindness included donating personal funds to help make sure the monitoring workshop was a success. Larry's poster and plaque will be hung in the halls of the Bren School as a testament to his hard work and conservation ethic.

In addition, Chris recognized Satie Airame for her unique contributions serving as the CINMS Scientific Advisor from 2000 through 2004 by presenting her with a framed original photograph by Jim Knowlton, signed by all Sanctuary staff.

Collaborative Marine Research Program: Overview and Request for Council Support

A series of presentations and remarks about the Collaborative Marine Research Program (CMRP) were presented by John Richards, formerly with the University of California Sea Grant program, Donna Schroeder from UCSB and a board member of the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Jim Marshall, a local fisherman and steering committee member of the CMRP. (Power point slides are available upon request).

John explained that the idea for the Collaborative Marine Research Program started with former Sanctuary Manager Ed Cassano, who felt that there is much local knowledge that could be used in developing biological research at the Sanctuary. John noted that this is the same kind of work he has been conducting as a sea grant agent for 17 years, but had always simply called it "working together" vs. the newer term "Collaborative Marine Research."

John described how Captain Ralph Hazard and Dr. Susan Anderson were pioneers of the collaborative marine research approach in our area, with work dating back to the 80s that resulted in a fishery management plan for ridgeback shrimp.

John explained that the goal of the CMRP is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the long term health of communities. Objective of the program, John explained, are to collect needed data, use cost effective measures, and build better relationships. John went on to talk about CMRP partners, the steering committee, and the planning committee.

John also talked about the CMRP's first completed project: Movement patterns of nearshore marine fishes in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. He described the roles of Dr. Jenn Caselle and

fishermen Chris Hoeflinger and Chris Miller. John explained that hundreds of fish were tagged and SCUBA surveys had been done afterward to follow up. The results are on the web.

John described how and why the CMRP is funded through the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CIMSf), noting that some important liability insurance issues are easier to deal with via the Foundation.

With regard to education and outreach, John explained that the CIMSf hosts a web site that describes the CMRP and presents project results. John said that the CIMSf has also provided funding for him to attend a conference in Vancouver, Canada called "Putting Fishers Knowledge to Work." He commented on seeing Dr. Jeremy Prince give a talk on the "Barefoot ecologists tool box" and how he thought that might have value for our area. Dr. Prince, he explained, then spoke with local urchin fishermen about the "barefoot ecology program," an idea that has since been supported and is developing in our area.

Jim Marshall, a SAC member, CMRP steering committee member, and leading proponent of involving fishermen in data collection for over twenty years, joined in on the presentation at this point. Jim commented that having read most of Jeremy's work concerning abalone management and monitoring he was enthused to meet him and discuss his ideas. Jim explained how well received Dr. Prince was when he first spoke with about 10 or 12 urchin fishermen from our area. He noted that while fishermen and scientists speak different languages, they can find common ground when they actually get together. Jim commented that although he has been doing this kind of work for a long time, he was impressed by Dr. Prince's Barefoot Ecology Program, which with Jim's involvement was subsequently applied in our area to the sea urchin fishery with some CMRP funding. Jim said that this work provides an example of benefits we might expect to see with a continued collaborative program. However, he expressed concern that the CMRP funding levels have gone from \$300K, to \$100K to less. Jim said that in recent years momentum has been lost with the CMRP, but that he hoped that now we can get it going again.

Donna Schroder, Board member for the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CIMSf) presented next, and focused her talk on explaining what the CIMSf is about and the potential of the CMRP. Donna began by describing 2003 work from Haneishi et. al. at UCLA on "Overcoming the Great Divide: Involving Commercial Fishermen in the Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary." Using this work as a framework Donna described the following main obstacles to involving fishermen in monitoring: 1) lack of effective mechanisms, 2) lack of incentives, 3) ineffective communication, and 4) concerns about data collection. For each of these obstacles, Donna spoke about how the CMRP helps or could help to effectively address these challenges.

Similarly, Donna described a California Department of Fish and Game list of constraints to involving fishermen in monitoring: lack of funding, liability, complex jurisdictions, loose organization of fishermen. Again, for each of these, Donna spoke of how the CMRP attempts to help.

Speaking about the CIMSf, Donna described current primary constraints as being infrastructure and staffing. She noted that NOAA, Sea Grant and other non-profit organizations have and can continue to be sources of Foundation support.

Donna stated that what is being requested of the SAC is a letter of support that could be quickly created and used when needed for CIMSf grant applications.

Much discussion ensued among SAC members. Bob Warner suggested that perhaps the RAP could help in review and selection of the right projects for the CMRP, or in development of criteria for that purpose.

Chris Mobley said that he expects to know in February if his CMRP funding request to the NMSP will come through. He expressed optimism about this. He agreed with comments Donna had made about the importance of focused staffing to work on the CMRP, which does not now exist.

Gary Davis added two suggestions: he felt it was important that explicit criteria be developed for good collaborative projects, and that it is a good idea to highlight private sector contributions to the CMRP, such as fishing community time, money and knowledge.

Greg Helms, a member of the CMRP steering committee, expressed support for the program and said that he hoped it would be a priority budget item. Greg suggested a motion, that was seconded, which involved the SAC writing a letter to NOAA to ask for greater support and participation in the CMRP by NOAA Fisheries, Sea Grant, and the MPA Center. After further discussions and clarifications, this motion was withdrawn and, in its place, **Greg Helms offered a motion (which was seconded) that the SAC produce a general resolution of support for the CMRP that the CIMSFC could use at any time for support when seeking funding. After further discussion and clarification, this motion passed unanimously.**

It was agreed that SAC Secretary Eric Kett and SAC Coordinator Michael Murray would work on the draft resolution text, and that it would be brought back to the Council for action at the March 18th.

Updates on Marine Protected Areas

John Ugoretz was absent during this portion of the meeting but provided his updates earlier in the day during council member announcements.

Chris Mobley indicated that Sanctuary staff continue to work on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (or DEIS) and plan to go to the April Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting with different alternatives, including the fishermen's alternatives. Chris explained that under section 304(a)(5) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act the Sanctuary is requesting that PFMC draft regulations to implement the preferred alternative. Chris explained that the official DEIS will be released following the regulations drafting process, and will therefore not occur until the end of the year. Chris indicated that the lesson to be learned is that this process probably would have moved more quickly if had been conducted as a joint state/federal process. Chris acknowledged that the SAC Commercial Fishing Working Group proposal will be analyzed but the analysis will not be released until the full DEIS is released.

Public Comment

No one from the public expressed an interest in commenting

Annual SAC Chairs Meeting (Mike Murray)

All chairs from 13 national marine sanctuaries will talk about National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) issues that may be in need of development of policy and/or guidelines, including cruise ship activities, marine reserves, aquaculture and bioprospecting. Mike referred to a hand out and noted that today's discussion represents the final opportunity for the Council to share thoughts with the Chair that can be carried to the SAC Chairs meeting. Council members discussed items that should be considered for the Chairs' meeting: inform people of Mark Helvey's analysis of the Marine Reserve Working Group

(MRWG) process; have the Chair discuss the cruise ship issue with Kira Schmidt, the new director of Santa Barbara Channel Keeper; have the California Resource Agency provide the Chair with information about what our State government is doing on these ocean policy issues; provide Chair with data on cruise ship carriers and number of days they spend in Sanctuary waters.

Working Group Reports

Recreational Fishing Working Group

Merit McCrea reported that while the group has not met recently, he has been in correspondence with members. Also, Merit explained that he had been walking the docks in Ventura and talking with harbor business owners, such as at tackle shops. Merit said that when asking these business owners about compliance with the CINMS marine reserves, responses suggested that it has been good. Merit also said that some people he's spoken with still would like to see range markers installed on the island shores to demark marine reserves boundaries. In other conversations with recreational fishermen, Merit reported strong feelings that CINMS should not gain the authority to restrict recreational fishing access in the Sanctuary, because of a fear that in the future this authority could be used in a way that hurts their interests.

Sanctuary Education Team

Craig Taylor reported that the Sanctuary Education Team (SET) has continued their work on refining Sanctuary outreach presentations. The presentations are in draft form now and will be made available to individuals that have been trained on their use by the SET. Craig suggested that perhaps water quality could also be taken on as a presentation topic. Matt Lum added, and Craig Taylor agreed, that the tone of these presentations is important.

Research Activities Panel

Bob Warner reported that since the last SAC meeting the Research Activities Panel (RAP) had not met. Bob reported that the RAP's next main agenda item would be to review the Channel Islands MPA monitoring plan produced by the California Department of Fish and Game. Bob also reported that he recently attended a Sea Grant-hosted workshop on monitoring of the Channel Islands MPAs, and that from this workshop it had been suggested that the RAP might serve as an oversight scientific review body to provide annual reviews of the MPAs performance. Bob also suggested that another possible role for the RAP might be to help develop scientific criteria for evaluating proposals submitted to the Collaborative Marine Research Program.

Chumash Working Group

Ricardo Melendez reported that while the new Chumash Working Group has not been formed yet, word has spread that it will be coming together. Ricardo said that he knows of a lot of interest within the community, and that a start-off event to be planned soon promises to be important for launching the working group.

No Reports

There was no report provided by the Commercial Fishing Working Group. Similarly, because the Conservation Working Group did not hold a meeting since the last SAC meeting, there was no report from this group.

SAC 2004 Year in Review

Mike Murray announced that the 2004 report is in the mail out packet and that he has a presentation but in the interest of time suggested that he not go through the presentation.

2005 Staff Requests for Assistance and SAC Annual Work Plan Development

Mike Murray explained the handout from the mail out packet, and Chris Mobley's suggestion that given the long list of topics the SAC may want to assign prioritization to the topics. The SAC then discussed the list of topics the staff requested assistance with.

Marine Reserves

The SAC discussion centered around having the SAC consider how the RAP could identify gaps in marine reserves monitoring; learning about monitoring being conducted in the Sanctuary by different groups, possibly through a presentation; learning more about various fisheries (in terms of target species and gear) that occur in the Sanctuary, and reaching out to the public to educate them about what type of fishing is allowed, where and when.

Management Plan

Mike Murray indicated that in the next few meetings the biogeography study will be completed and presented to the SAC as an information item. Mike also stated that when the draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement are released there will be a 60 day public comment period between two SAC meetings, along with public hearings.

Water Quality

Mike Murray said the details of the water quality process will evolve through work with Donna Meyers, but for now Sanctuary staff want to know if the is SAC interested in working with staff to help find gaps in water quality programs and monitoring.

Marine Acoustics

Mike Murray noted that earlier Chris Mobley spoke about some of the work being conducted to address recommendations such as working with NMFS Office of Protected Resources and graduate students. Scott Dunn asked why air quality is not listed as an issue, especially given that some concerns from marine acoustics that could lead to re-routing of ships, for example, could lead to air quality impacts.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Sarah MacWilliams explained that the Sanctuary is now partnering with the League of Women Voters to sponsor an educational forum on LNG. She indicated that speakers will include representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, California State Lands Commission, BHP Billiton, Environmental Defense Center (the SAC's own Linda Krop), and Border Power Plant Working Group. Sarah said that announcements will be sent out soon but asked that SAC members note that the forum will take place on March 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

SAC members expressed an interest in having the USCG representatives provide updates on LNG, and in having LNG forum panel members raise concerns about accidents and their safety consequences, and to have someone go over case studies of other projects that discuss basics of what LNG is and how it is processed, and to discuss what has happened at other sites

Sanctuary 25th Anniversary

Mike Murray noted that five SAC representatives already volunteered to form a 25th anniversary subcommittee.

Chumash Culture

Ricardo Melendez noted that he didn't see anything dealing with Chumash culture on the worksheet. Mike Murray said he expects there will be additional assistance from working groups to bring ideas to the SAC about Chumash culture. Eric Kett said while there is no specific action on Chumash culture all of the items are to be addressed by each seat on the SAC to bring their perspective, including the Chumash perspective. A motion was approved to add education about traditional people. Mike Murray indicated that the list was generated by thinking about current policy issues, and not thinking about all ideas that are relevant to the SAC.

Other Topics

Other topics raised by Council members included: potential non-native species introductions into Sanctuary waters; a visit to Aquarium of the Pacific; learning about affects and impacts on wildlife of water quality issues such as domoic acid; asking SAC representatives in government seats to make sure that if there is anything that might be of interest to the SAC that they come prepared to give the SAC a short five-minute briefing gaining more information and education about Sanctuary resources; send Sanctuary staff to PFMC, and have PFMC visit at SAC meeting and go to the Sanctuary office and meet with staff.

Mike Murray suggested that if any SAC members hear about an interesting speaker who can address something relevant to Channel Islands they should bring it up with Mike and Chris.

Further Council Discussion

Jim Knowlton asked for clarification on the topic prioritization exercise. Mike Murray asked SAC members to provide independent opinions on prioritization by ranking each item as either "H, M, or L." Chris Mobley suggested that if the SAC adopts this as a working plan it can be updated and refined later based on results of priority ranking. No SAC members expressed any opposition to adopting this as a working plan so it was unanimously adopted.

Gary Davis suggested having two agency updates per meeting so that everyone gets to go once per year but the SAC will not have to take too much time at each meeting for all agency updates.

Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics

SAC Event Specialist Jacklyn Kelly provided an update on the upcoming planned SAC retreat between Sanctuary staff, the SAC and guests, the number participating is currently 40. Mike Murray said an email reminder will be sent out, but from 5 a.m. and after on the scheduled day of the event everyone should check in with Island Packers to make sure there are no weather cancellations. Mike Murray explained that there are two windows of availability at the Santa Cruz Island field station for a fall 2005 retreat, and he asked which dates the SAC members present preferred. There was general agreement that the earlier date was preferred, with a two-night stay.

2005 Tentative* SAC Meeting Dates:

- **Friday, March 18, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura
- **Friday, May 20, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- **Friday, July 22, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura
- **Friday, September 23, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- **October 24-28, 2005:** Proposed 2 or 3 day SAC Retreat to Channel Islands (Dates TBD)
- **Friday, November 18, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

*Michael Murray
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*Sarah MacWilliams
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*Jacklyn Kelly
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* The SAC expressed support for holding at least two evening sessions in 2005 (one in Santa Barbara and one in Ventura). These evening sessions would be on Thursdays preceding two of the above dates. The exact dates have not been selected yet, as the SAC would prefer to meet in the evening when there is an item of elevated public interest on the agenda, such as a public hearing on the Management Plan or the release of a draft environmental impact statement on marine reserves/conservation areas). So, plan on the above listed meeting schedule until future notice about shifting to a preceding Thursday. Staff will provide as much advance notice as possible.